VOLUME IX, NUMBER 1

July 1992

THE MUNI MEMO

OF THE PEOPLE, BY THE PEOPLE, FOR THE PEOPLE OF THE SAN FRANCISCO MUNICIPAL RAILWAY

MUNI FARE RISES TO A DOLLAR

The San Francisco Board of Supervisors has approved an increase in Muni fares as part of the Mayor's proposal to offset the City's multi-million-dollar deficit. Effective August 1, 1992, the new Muni fare schedule will be as follows:

Adult:	Increase from 85¢ to $1.00
Senior/Disabled:	Increase from 15¢ to 25¢
Youth:	No increase. Remains at 25¢
Fast Pass:	Increase from $30 to $32
Discount Pass:	Increase from $4.50 to $5.00
Youth Pass:	No increase. Remains at $5.00
Cable Car (Adult):	Increase from $2.00 to $3.00
Cable Car (Youth):	No increase. Remains at $1.00
Cable Car (Senior/Discount):	Increase from 15¢ to $1.00

In addition, the Board approved the sale of a new half-monthly adult pass and 90-cent tokens, which will be available in January 1993. The half-monthly pass will be good from the 1st to the 15th and the 16th to the end of each month at a cost of $16 or half the monthly Fast Pass price. Passengers will be able to purchase 90-cent tokens in lots of ten for $9.00, giving them a break off the $1.00 adult fare.

The Muni fare increase is expected to garner over $6 million annually for the City's coffers. In approving the Muni fare package, the PUC and Board nixed scenarios for even higher fares, taking testimony from the public into serious consideration.

F-LINE CONSTRUCTION STARTS

Muni's F Market Historic Streetcar line moved closer to reality in June when construction began in the Upper Market area. The F line was conceived in the early eighties as part of the City's Market Street Transit Thoroughfare Project, which called for the rehabilitation of Market Street as a primary public transit corridor, with four lanes of public transit and year-round streetcar service. The popularity of Muni's summer Historic Trolley Festival, featuring vintage streetcars from around the world, during the Cable Car System Rehabilitation Project of 1982-1984 further demonstrated the appeal of supplementing public transit on Market Street with an historic streetcar line.

Photo: Kurt Wong

Work on installing the track for the new F Market line has begun near Market & Church Streets.

The reconstruction of lower Market Street took place in several stages from 1984 to 1989 when overhead lines were replaced, new track was laid, and boarding islands were built. Similar construction on the Upper Market portion will occur in two phases: 1) Duboce

Continued on pg. 8

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Management Message

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Still no permanent budget

As of this writing, the City and therefore Muni, still does not have a permanent budget in place because of the uncertainty associated with the state's budget crisis. An interim budget has been approved by the Board of Supervisors, but this can change, of course, at any moment. As you know, Muni fares will rise on August 1st as part of the Mayor's plan to offset a portion of the City's deficit. So far, Muni appears to be entering the new fiscal year without suffering major layoffs or service reductions.

Despite the financial uncertainty, which continues to plague San Francisco and Muni, we hope to continue providing reliable service to the people of San Francisco. Thanks for your patience throughout this long ordeal.

Johnny Stein
General Manager

Editor's Box

Dear Reader,

This month we return to our monthly format. Because we are now producing the *Muni Memo* and many other publications in-house at a lower cost, our distribution schedule may vary from month to month depending upon our work load. Please bear with us. We will attempt to have each month's newsletter distributed to you by the end of that month and hopefully before.

Sincerely,
Anne Milner
Editor

JOB FILE

2652 Baker, Department of Public Health, $33,225-40,272 annually. Apply immediately. For info, call 206-5027; **9202 Airport Communication Operator,** SF International Airport, $33,225-40,272 annually. Apply immediately for series of on-going examinations. For info, call 876-2187. **3632 Librarian II,** SF Library or neighborhood branch, $40,820-49,518 annually. Apply by July 20th. For info, call 557-4843. For general employment informa-

Cont. on pg. 3

Jobs *Cont. from pg. 2*

tion on these and other City positions, call the Civil Service 24-hour information number at 557-4889 or 557-4888 for currently issued job announcements. Also call the PUC Hotline at 554-1669 for PUC/Muni positions.

EMPLOYEE NOTICE

Event Reminder

Don't forget about the Cable Car Bell Ringing and Roadeo, both slated for this month. The Cable Car Bell Ringing preliminaries are on July 16th at 5:00 p.m. at the Cable Car Barn with the finals at noon in Union Square on July 23rd. The date for the the Roadeo has been changed to Saturday, July 25th at Piers 30/32 at the foot of Brannan Street.

CONGRATS!

The Division Operators of the Month for June were:

Cable Car:	Calvin Wod Lee
Flynn:	Rosemary Bethea
Green:	Paul Chin
Kirkland:	Emiliano Dollesin
Potrero:	Jean Ellis
Presidio:	Janice M. Bailey
Woods:	William R. Obertik

Unsung Hero

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Saadat Ahmad

Division Instructor,
Cable Car Division

BACKGROUND: Saadat was born in St. Louis, Missouri, where he attended elementary and high schools. After high school, he enlisted in the Marines, serving for four years.

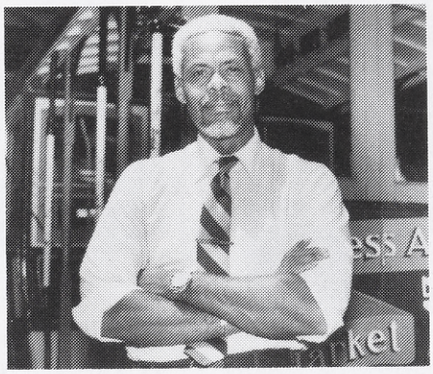

Photo: Gretchen Hildner

Saadat Ahmad

He served in the First Marine Division, stationed at Camp Pendleton, and was part of the Marine detachment aboard the U.S.S. Yorktown stationed at the Alameda Air Station where he was first introduced to the Bay Area. After his stint with the Marines, he returned to St. Louis where he worked for Western Electric as an installer, but the California bug had bit him. He returned to San Francisco and enrolled in the S.F. Art Institute, studying photography for four years. He also majored in English at Cal State, Hayward and is just two credits short of his degree. In 1965, he joined Muni as an operator, thinking it would be a temporary job! He was assigned to the Cable Car Division as a conductor, then went on to drive from Kirkland and later returned to the cable cars. In 1980, he became a line trainer for all Muni's equipment. Subsequently, he came a cable car trainer under the stewardship of Bud McNaughton, who he says "assisted me in becoming the best supervisor and trainer I could become." Saadat was also Muni Operator of the Month back in the seventies.

FAMILY: Saadat is married and has six children. His wife Dhameera is a school teacher in the Oakland Public School System. His children's names are Dina, 30; Nafia, 24; Nisa, 20; Azizah, 13; Yusuf, 10; and Ismael, 3.

WHY MY JOB IS IMPORTANT: Training must instill in the operator the defensive and safe driving skills they use on the job. Their initial training sets the standard for their later performance.

WHY I LIKE WHAT I DO: I like to be able to see a driver come back with a Safe Driver Award. It's good to know you've contributed in a positive way to someone's career.

SOMETHING NOT MANY PEOPLE KNOW ABOUT ME: Saadat Ahmad is a Muslim name. I converted to the Islam religion a number of years ago. In fact, I made a pilgrimage to Mecca and am a "Hajji," the Islamic title of one who has visited Mecca.

HOBBIES & INTERESTS: Photography

WORDS OF WISDOM: There are three things in the world that are outmoded and that we must move beyond: 1) racism, 2) nationalism and 3) religious intolerance. We've got to get beyond these things and realize that we are all human beings, no matter what our race, nationality or religious preference.

Awards

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June Systemwide Operator of the Month

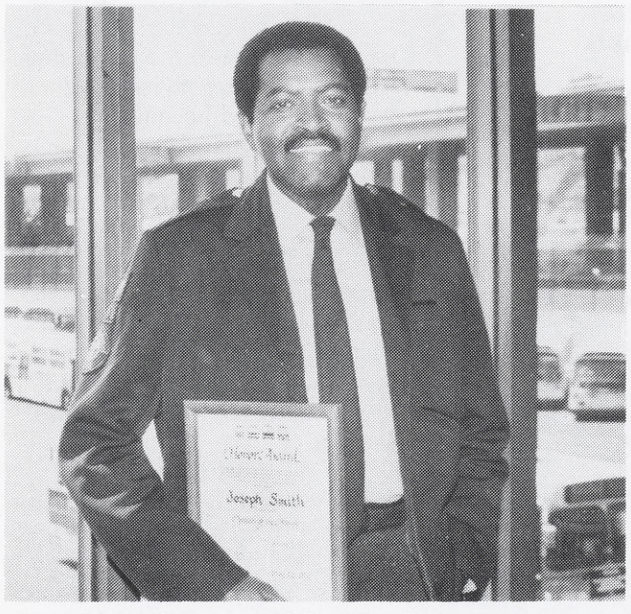

Photo: Kurt Wong

June Muni Operator of the Month Joseph Smith of Woods.

Name:	Joseph Smith
Division:	Woods
Years with Muni:	25
Background:	
Birthplace:	Greenville, South Carolina
Education:	City College of SF – two years; San Francisco State University – one year.
Marital Status:	Divorced
Children:	Jonelle, 24; Jovonne, 20; Joseph Vincent, 15
Hobbies and Interests:	Basketball and bowling
Words of Wisdom:	"Always strive to be the best you can."

June Systemwide Operator of the Month Runner-up

Name:	Bobbie J. Stitt
Division:	Woods
Years with Muni:	Eight
Background:	
Birthplace:	Texarkana, Arkansas
Education:	Camdon High School, Texarkana
	Texarkana Nursing School
Previous Employment:	Nurse for the City of SF
Marital Status:	Separated
Children:	Lela, 25. Lela is an actress. She appeared in the film "Harlem Nights," and also does TV commercials.
Hobbies and Interests:	Charitable work with The Order of the Eastern Star
Words of Wisdom:	"My mission is to help people other than myself."

Photo: Kurt Wong

June Operator of the Month Runner-up Bobbie J. Stitt of Woods.

Awards

June Maintenance Worker of the Month

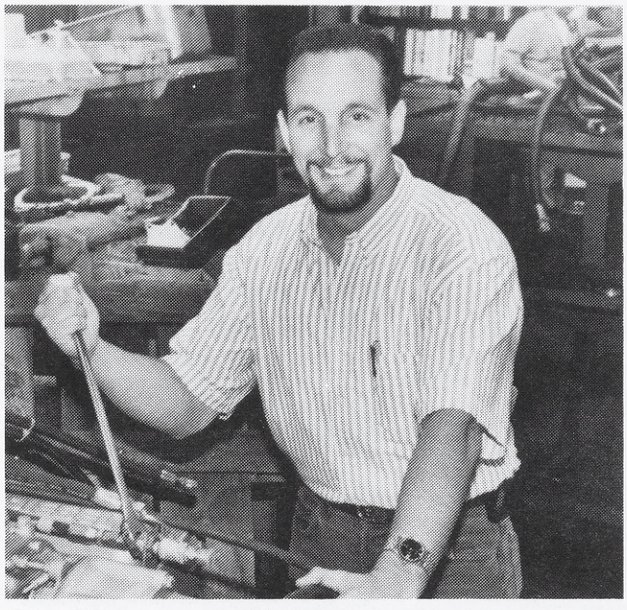

Photo: Gretchen Hildner

June Maintenance Worker of the Month
Daniel J. Ficher of Woods

Name:	Daniel J. Ficher
Position:	7313 Automotive Machinist
Division:	Woods
Years with Muni:	Three
Background:	
Birthplace:	San Francisco
Education:	Crestmoor High School, San Bruno; Automotive courses at Skyline Junior College; College of San Mateo.
Previous Employment:	Head mechanic for the City of Millbrae (five years).
Marital Status:	Single
Hobbies and Interests:	Drag racing, restoring muscle cars; abalone diving.
Words of Wisdom:	"The good Lord helps those who help themselves."

Transportation Worker of the Spring Quarter

Name:	Manny Gonzalez
Division:	Presidio
Position:	9140 Transit Manager I
Years with Muni:	26
Background:	
Birthplace:	San Antonio, Texas
Education:	City College, one year; Skyline Junior College, two years.
Previous Employment:	U.S. Army
Marital Status:	Married to Ginny for 26 years
Children:	Cynthia, 22; Sal, 22; Brian (son-in-law), 25; K.J. (grandson), 21 months.
Hobbies/Interests:	Bowling
Words of Wisdom:	"Life is fatal; don't take it seriously."

Photo: Kurt Wong

Transportation Employee of the Spring Quarter
Manny Gonzalez

News

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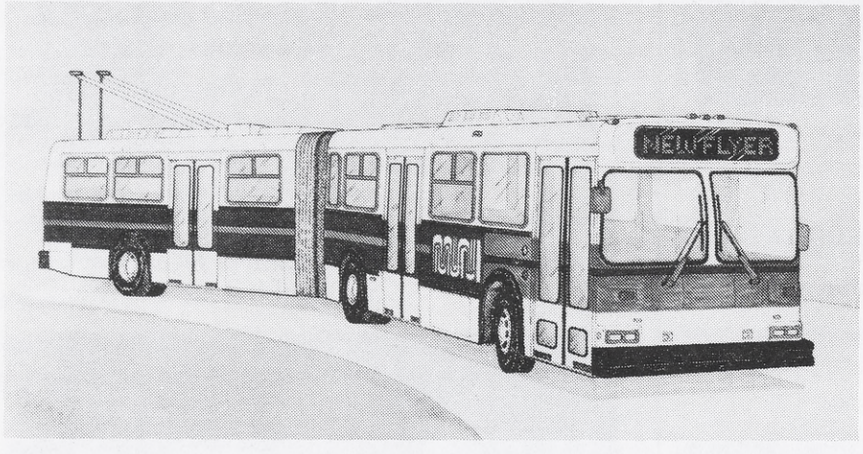
NEW ARTIC TROLLEY COMES TO SF

Prototype at Muni for Testing

A prototype of Muni's new articulated trolley bus arrived at Muni in July for review. The bus, manufactured by New Flyer Industries of Winnipeg, Canada, will remain in San Francisco for several months for evaluation and examination.

After engineering tests take place over the summer, the bus will go into revenue service for additional evaluation on a number of different trolley bus lines.

Among the lines passengers can expect to see the articulated trolley bus on are the 1 California, the 14 Mission and the 5 Fulton. Each of these lines has unique features that lend themselves to evaluation of how well the new bus will operate. For example, the 1 California route is hilly, the 14 Mission has the highest passenger load of any trolley bus line and frequent stops, and the 5 Fulton can attain higher speeds on its longer runs in the outer avenues.



Muni's newest! This artist's rendering shows one of the New Flyer articulated trolley coaches. The first vehicle is now undergoing testing.

After Muni evaluates the prototype, Flyer Industries will incorporate any necessary changes and go into full production on the building of 60 articulated trolley buses, scheduled for delivery to Muni in mid-1993.

Muni's new articulated trolley buses will have separate driving motors to operate the middle and rear axles. The motors are designed to provide plenty of power and good acceleration in San Francisco's hilly terrain while giving passengers a smooth ride. The buses will be equipped with wheelchair lifts and "kneeling" features that drop the front steps four inches for elderly or disabled passengers. Each bus will be able to accommodate two wheelchairs at a time. They also feature a graffiti-resistant coating on the seats, and the exteriors will be painted with a special graffiti-resistant paint.

The buses incorporate seating for 56 passengers, with a seated and standing capacity for 170 passengers. They will first go into service in the Mission Corridor on the 14 Mission line.

Award Presented

Congratulations to Public Relations Officer Gordon Smith of Community Affairs, who received a special plaque at June's Civic Luncheon at the Fairmount Hotel. Smith received the plaque for his outstanding work in organizing the 100th Anniversary Celebration of Streetcar Service in SF.

Transitions

UP THE LADDER
Congratulations to the following eight former transit operators who were promoted to 9139 Transit Supervisors as of May 9, 1992: Janelle Chase, Jeffrey Chow, Mark Davis, Danilo Farrales, David Hooper, George Moley, Bradford Lum, and Charles Scott.

News

A Division Whose Time Has Come

Muni used to have three diesel divisions and now it has four. What's the fourth? It's the Road Service Division, which for the past year, has been handling road calls for Woods, Flynn and Kirkland.

The creation of the Road Service Division, located at Third and Army Streets, is part of a reorganization of Muni's diesel maintenance facilities to make them more efficient. Managed by former assistant superintendent at Flynn, Mario Perez, the new division is in charge of attending to all diesel bus service calls previously handled by the divisions themselves, freeing Woods, Flynn and Kirkland to attend to preventive maintenance of the diesel fleet. The division also tows electric trolley coaches when necessary and handles breakdowns of non-revenue vehicles on the weekends.

Diesel maintenance has improved significantly since the creation of the Road Call Division because maintenance crews are able to handle scheduled work without interruption.

Senior Action Network Applauds Muni

The Senior Action Network is a group representing seniors who had been unhappy earlier this year with the performance of some Muni drivers who were failing to pull their buses to the curb. They now report that their Muni Good Driver Report Card Program has turned up three winners.

The Senior Action Network presented the awards in June to operators Claudine Goode, Guillermo Perez and Thomas Varsanyi for receiving the highest number of good Muni Report Cards in the first quarter — the months of March, April, and May — of the program.

The Senior Action Network began the Muni Good Driver Report Card Program, a quarterly awards program, in March to encourage Muni drivers to be sensitive to the transit needs of seniors. In the first quarter, the network collected over 200 "good" cards. Of those 200, approximately 40 had excellent results. The Network works with the Transport Workers Union, Local 250 A, to develop a list based on the report cards and determine which drivers have received the highest number of accolades.

Congratulations to Muni drivers Goode, Perez and Varsanyi for their excellent driving skills and sensitivity to seniors. For more information about the Senior Action Network's Muni Good Driver Report Card Program, please call 863-2033.

Welcome Aboard

The following new operators graduated from operator training on June 10th: Dennis Edgar, Jr., Paul Griffin, Sanh Hoang, David Yee, Elbert Harris, Kenneth Jomoc, Valerie Cleveland, Davey Lacap, Redeena Whitmore, Morris Daniels, Margaret Slater, Shirbie Reece Whitman, Glenda Wallace, David Gonsoulin, Paul Lau, Tonya Hill, Peter Ramos, Randall Dea, Gregory Hill, Randy Lipscomb, Michael Wood, Ben Chan, Tracy Alexander, William Marquardt, Annette Kess, David Roberson, Darla Lee.

Riders Speak

To Whom It May Concern:

Several weeks ago, my friends and I were vacationing in SF. While we were there, we discovered your wonderful bus system. We found it to be very efficient and economical. One of your drivers, Mr. Tom Shelton, was particularly friendly and helpful. He explained your system and told us what routes to take to reach our destinations.

All of the drivers were very nice. You have a transportation system to be proud of. I'm from the St. Louis area and we're not used to that.

So again, thank you and Mr. Shelton for making our trip so enjoyable.

Sincerely,
Mary Young
Columbia, Illinois

Dear Muni,

In March, I was waiting for a bus at 19th & Lincoln, when I fainted, fell and injured my face. Inspector Cassone, who was on duty at that corner, rushed to my assistance.

Thanks to his quick actions, I received prompt emergency on-site care, as well as subsequent hospital attention, and I am now OK. It is reassuring to know that there are such caring individuals employed by Muni.

Sincerely,
Virginia Quigley

F Line *Cont. from pg. 1*

Avenue to Castro from June 1992 to April 1994; 2) 11th Street to Duboce from spring 1993 to fall 1994. During these periods, track will be laid, new overhead lines will be strung, boarding islands will be built and landscaping of the median divide with Canary Island palms will take place.

When the work is completed in late 1994, revenue service will begin on the F Market line between Castro and the Transbay Terminal, replacing the 8 Market trolley coach line. By 1998, the F Market will continue along the Embarcadero from Market Street to Fisherman's Wharf. Construction on the Embarcadero segment from Fremont to the Embarcadero and from Beach along the Embarcadero to Market will begin in 1995.

The F Market may well rival the cable cars with the operation of 20 reconstructed PCC (Presidents' Conference Committee) cars, like those that ran in SF from the 1940s to the early 1980s, along with Muni's fleet of historic streetcars from the U.S., England, Portugal, Germany, Italy, and Australia. Plans call for the PCCs to be painted in the same color schemes they wore when they were operated by such cities such as Cleveland, Cincinnati, Kansas City, Philadelphia, Louisville and San Francisco in bygone days.

Muni's historic streetcars ran on July 4th and will also be seen on the three-day Labor Day weekend on the J line along Church Street, and on Market from Duboce to the Transbay Terminal. Don't miss them for a sampling of what the future F Market line will be like every day! They'll run from approximately 10:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

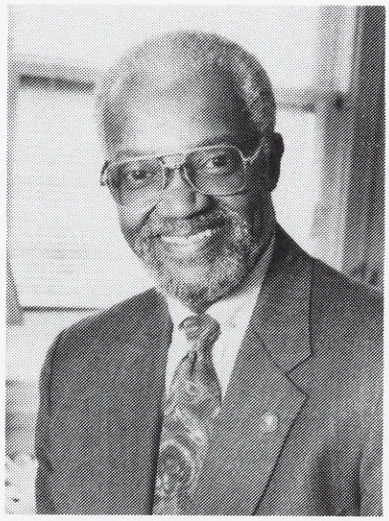


Photo: Gretchen Hildner

George Newkirk

A WALKING MIRACLE!

Welcome back to Labor Relations Director George Newkirk, who returned to work at Muni part-time in May after a five-month convalescence. Last November 5th, George was hospitalized at Kaiser, near death with complications resulting from a leaking heart valve and pneumonia. As he puts it, "I walked on water to return to Muni." Just make sure you take it easy, George!

Credits

The *Muni Memo* is published by the Community Affairs Department of Muni. Contributions and comments may be addressed to the *Muni Memo,* Room 238, 949 Presidio Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94115, telephone 923-6162.

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